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SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives during the telephonic interview conducted on April 4, 2007. The Examiner agreed that Kim (U.S. Patent No. 5,777,680) does not teach the limitation of "the characteristic being determined by prediction without using a result of the first sub-encoding of the current frame," and suggested amending Claim 1 to clarify that the characteristic is determined by prediction without using *either* the first sub-encoded block or set of blocks of the current frame. Applicant's representative noted that Claims 7, 11, 12, 13, 15-20, 25, 28-30 and 32-36 contained similar limitations, specifying that the characteristic is determined by prediction without using a result of the first sub-encoding of the current frame.